

REMARKS

Claims 43-52 remain pending in the application with the present amendments. In the Office Action, all claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,948,168 to Kuprionas ("Kuprionas"), in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,044,471 to Colvin ("Colvin"). For the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully submit that the presently pending claims are fully distinguished from the references cited in the Office Action to reject the claims.

The presently amended claims recite an embodiment of the invention which is depicted in FIG. 6 and described, *inter alia*, at paragraphs [0132] through [0140] of the specification. The method claims 47 and 51 are amended herein to recite determining one of (a) whether "the first and second identification information match data stored in a database" and (b) whether "the second identification information matches data stored in the database and a password inputted by the user at a first information processing apparatus is valid." When any of (a) and (b) is true, the first information processing is permitted to execute a program. Apparatus claims 43 and 52 contain similar recitations.

The presently claimed invention permits the user to provide a combination of at least two kinds of information for authentication to gain permission to execute a program. Thus, for example, with a password and second identification information provided for authentication, the user can obtain permission at different computers.

In a particular example described in the specification, a parent can set a password in advance to prevent their child from accessing games the parent considers undesirable. This feature enables the parent to prohibit the child from accessing a particular game, even when the user ID

and device ID (examples of first and second information) are determined valid.

The Office Action rightly acknowledges that Kuprionas does not teach verification of first and second identification information and password verification as set forth in the claims prior to the present amendment. Kuprionas also does not teach the techniques of the presently amended claims.

Colvin does not provide the teachings which Kuprionas lacks with respect to the invention recited in the presently pending claims. Colvin merely teaches authentication using a single password at a time. Colvin does not teach using second information, e.g., a second password, for example, to determine whether a user is allowed to execute a program, because the second password is used for continued use of the software for which permission to execute has already been granted (col.4 ll.28-32). Even when a password is updated, only the updated password is used for verification.

Colvin also describes that an administrator 24 may compare the registration information with previously received registration information to determine whether to issue a password. (col.5 ll.6-9). The information is only used to issue a password. Thus, only a password needs to be verified to authorize a user to execute a program. Even if the registration information is used with a password for verification, the combination of the information and a password is fixed. In contrast, the claimed invention allows a user to select the combination of different kinds of information and/or a password to be used for authentication.

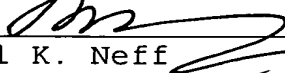
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested

that the Examiner telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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